

## TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL

By FRANK P. MAC LENNAN.

(Entered July 1, 1918, as second-class matter at the post office at Topeka, Kansas, under the act of Congress.)

VOLUME XXXV.....No. 219

Official Paper of Topeka, Kansas.  
Official Paper City of Topeka.TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.  
Daily edition, delivered by carrier, 10 cents a week to any part of Topeka, or suburbs, or at the same price in any Kansas town where the paper has a carrier system.By mail, one year.....\$3.00  
By mail, three months.....\$1.00  
Saturday edition of daily, one year.....1.50TELEPHONE.  
Business Office.....Bell 55  
Editorial Office.....Bell 55  
Reporter's Room.....Bell 55  
Printer's Room.....Bell 55  
Frank P. MacLennan.....Ind. 70PERMANENT HOME.  
Topeka State Journal Building, 20 and 22 Kansas avenue, corner of Eighth.New York Office: Flatiron building, at Twenty-third street, corner Fifth avenue and Broadway.  
Chicago Office: Hartford building, Paul Block, manager.FULL LEASED WIRE REPORT  
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The State Journal is a member of the Associated Press and receives the full day telegraph report of that great news organization at the same price in any Kansas town where the paper has a carrier system.

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HOME NEWS WHILE AWAY.

Subscribers of the State Journal away during the summer may have the paper mailed regularly each day to any address at the rate of ten cents a week or thirty cents a month (by mail only). Address changed as often as desired. While out of town the State Journal will be to you like a Mally letter from home.

Advance payment is requested on these short time subscriptions, to save bookkeeping expenses.

Please note this fact. The American balloonists who sailed for Europe the other day traveled by means of a steamship.

Kermit Roosevelt has qualified for the African hunt. He stopped a team of runaway horses the other day and is credited with saving three lives thereby.

The redwood forests of California, where the biggest trees in the world are wont to grow, will have to be scoured for adequate material in view of the possibility of Mr. Taft going "on the stump" during the campaign.

It would be decidedly more interesting if the Parsons Sun were more explicit. It says: "There is one man running for office in Kansas this year who is so cold-blooded that the mosquitoes wear overshoes and mittens when they approach him."

"Why we cling to life," is the subject of a recent lengthy article by an eminent scientist. After an exceedingly full and free discussion of this interesting question he appears to arrive at the conclusion that it is because we don't care about dying.

Kansas will worry along this year as has been her wont for the past decade. The wheat yield approximates seventy-four million bushels, and the weather conditions for wheat this spring were not overly good at that. And as to the corn crop—well, that promises to be fine, thank you.

Like a page from the stories of the dim, distant past comes the tale of a lone, masked bandit holding up several stage coaches in Yellowstone Park and relieving the sightseers with which they were filled of their valuables and coin. These folks certainly got a bit of excitement they did not bargain for.

Kansas appears to be pretty well off as regards the possession of personal property aside from their large holdings of real estate. The tax commission fixes the values of the personal belongings in the state at a half million dollars. And there's quite a bit, no doubt, that has not found its way to the tax rolls.

On being made a "freeman" of Dublin, Richard Croker, with the agitation of great approval in his voice, said: "I hope to live to see Ireland free." If Croker takes a hand in this ancient struggle and uses the same methods he employed when he ruled New York as the boss of Tammany Hall, freedom for the people of Ireland will be a long time in coming.

Japan's finances are in such shape that she is contemplating the postponement of the world's fair, which was scheduled to be held at Tokio in 1912, until 1917. And still Hobson and a few others continue their howls about the imminence of war between the United States and the Flowery Kingdom. They'll probably come forward with the argument now that because Japan is spending all of its money in preparation for that war she hasn't any to spare for expositions or other pursuits of peace.

The cost to the state for caring for the unfortunate in its charitable and eleemosynary institutions, was \$34,905 more last year than the year before. Of this increase the greater portion, \$24,000, went for increased salaries for officials and attendants at the institutions. Thus it ever is in the management of state affairs. Men are always found to be ready and willing to take a state position no matter what the salary is but they do not hold it long before it becomes evident to them and to the state officers under whose charge they are that their salaries or wages should be boosted.

A report comes from New York that Holland and the United States are backing a revolution which is planning to overthrow Castro from the control of Venezuela. This is probably erroneous. A revolution may be brewing in Venezuela and the United

States and Holland would undoubtedly be pleased to see Mr. Castro get eliminated from any voice in the government of the most troublesome state in South America. But they will watch this revolution from the side lines. It would be more than impolitic for either the United States or Holland to back a revolution against Castro or anybody else. They could not even afford to lend such a cause their moral support.

## A LEPROSY CONGRESS.

An international congress of medical men to discuss the subject of leprosy is to be held in Bergen, Norway, in August of next year. Dr. Leonardo Dyer of New Orleans, who sent out circulars announcing the meeting to physicians in the United States, has received a communication from Lieutenant Charles E. MacDonald, a United States army surgeon, now stationed at Fort Mott, Salem, N. J., but formerly in the Philippine Islands, where he made a study of the disease. Dr. MacDonald inclines to the following conclusions:

First—That sanitation has little, if anything, to do with the contracting or spreading of leprosy.

Second—That the disease is not contagious and only slightly infectious.

Third—That it does prolong life owing to a peculiar immunity.

Fourth—That the eating of fish and shell fish plays an important part in the etiology of the disease.

Fifth—That it may possibly be an obscure form of tuberculosis among the lower animal life in fish, clams and snails.

Sixth—That there is very little suffering and discomfort among its victims.

Seventh—That leprosy is a disease that is not as dangerous as we are led to believe.

Eighth—That there are several forms of leprosy that are not classified.

Dr. MacDonald says the Samaritans all refer to a terrible storm of thirty years ago which destroyed vegetable food products and compelled them to subsist for months on fish and clams taken from the Dolores river, and insist that the disease was the direct result of their fish and clam diet at that time. They also believe that their leprosy makes them immune from many other diseases, including cholera, tuberculosis and fevers. Many of them who are quite old believe that leprosy has prolonged their lives. They have lived in crowded huts, yet the disease has spread but little, if any. They have raised children and grandchildren, and among the younger ones there is no leprosy.

Now that the United States has possessions in which leprosy exists it is important that sane opinions on the subject should prevail. Something like a panic was produced at Washington a week or so ago when a former Philippine soldier, looking for employment, was discovered to be afflicted with the disease. He was isolated at once, but was not subjected to the inhumanity visited upon the unfortunate woman leper whose ostracism at Los Angeles recently has aroused sympathy throughout the Union.

There is ample scope for an international congress on leprosy to do some good in the world at the present time.

## THE ROBBERY IN THE PARK.

News from Yellowstone Park is not just of the sort to encourage tourists. It appears that the other morning seven stage coaches containing seven parties of men and women, but mostly women, were held up one after the other as they reached a curve in the road within a short distance of the Old Faithful Inn, and relieved of jewelry and money, the total of the latter being about \$7,000. Not one of the party in any of the coaches carried weapons of any sort. That is forbidden by the authorities, a fact which was probably known to the lone robber whose task was made quite easy thereby.

A question is now raised in the minds of some whether the government, in issuing an order that deprives the tourist of all means of self-defense in case of an attack by robbers or wild beasts, does not become responsible for their safe conduct while in the national park. Without answering that question, which may be properly left to the courts, it is pointed out that the order should be modified so as to allow the coach driver and guard, if there is one, to carry arms, or an armed guard should be provided to accompany any party of tourists in the park. As it is, the tourists who are loudly advised to "See America First," will think twice before they follow it.

## HOW WORRY KILLS.

A writer in the current Harper's Weekly describes the physical derangements caused by the worry habit. "That worry," he writes, "particularly over matters of condition and environment, will cause the most positive form of indigestion is proved by a case recorded in France. For the purpose of experiment several not physicians arranged with the authorities to use as a subject a man condemned to death. He was purposely allowed to hope for commutation of sentence until three days before the official date set for the execution, when he was informed that at the end of that time he would be guillotined. He had been always a healthy, rugged, athletic man, a heavy eater who had never known trouble with his digestive organs, or stomach disorders. Before being told of his fate, he ate a hearty meal of various foods, of which a meat was made at the time. Afterward he ate but little and in decreasing quantity as his worry increased over his approaching execution. When executed the post-mortem examination discovered the food he had eaten three days before still in his stomach and undigested. The organs were perfectly normal from a pathological point of view, but the de-

pressing, prostrating effect of worry on the nerves affecting the digestive organs had prevented the stomach from exercising its function of digestion."

## JOURNAL ENTRIES

It's quite as hard to get your friends to trust you as it is for you to trust them.

A pretty girl has all of a million chances in a hundred to get married if she wants them.

It will be just like the women if they are given universal suffrage not to care to vote.

There are just as effective final arguments in bricks accurately tossed as there are sermons in stones.

About the only chance many a girl has of becoming engaged is to lead a man up to a proposal at a masked ball before the hour of unmasking arrives.

## JAYHAWKER JOTS

Over a week has elapsed and no Kansas has yet been connected up with the Hains killing in any way, bemoans the Hutchinson News.

Salina appears to be about the only town in the state that has heard anything concerning a railroad to be built from Omaha to Wichita.

W. C. Austin, editor of the Chase County Leader, has purchased the Matfield Green paper and will consolidate the two. Matfield Green is a suburb of Oklahoma Falls.

John Redmond of the Burlington Republican attended the editorial convention at St. Paul. He likes St. Paul but it doesn't compare with Burlington, Kansas, for real happiness.

Mr. Moses, mayor of Parsons, is not the man who was found in the bull-rushes, but he is the man who has put a stop to the can rushes in that town, says the Wichita Eagle.

A Salina girl who is not "up" on canine matters recently came into possession of a dog which had a pedigree as long as a cub reporter's first police court story, and she is telling her friends that he is a "thoroughbred collie."

A Kansas man was sent from Leavenworth to Oklahoma City to smash 800 barrels of beer. Smashing barrels of beer, says the Wichita Eagle, is a fine art which has not been cultivated in Oklahoma. It has in this state and the officials there probably did not feel equal to the task.

After many years of litigation the case of W. J. K. P. Jones against the city of Ottawa was dismissed last week. The case was tried four times; once Jones got a judgment and three times the jury hung. The case twice found its way to the supreme court. It was a personal injury case growing out of a run-in while W. J. K. P. Jones had several ribs broken.

"We understand," writes the dramatic critic for the Vermillion Times, "that the manager and star in the 'Handeuff King' company at the opera house last night was Vermillion in June, helping to fix up the Central Branch tracks. At that time he was a section hand. Now he is leading man in the worst show on earth. Our boys and young men who think that the odds have been forced down to 5 to 1, the speculators taking upon themselves a chance of collecting without the assistance of a court of law."

The "gambling act," which was enacted during the reign of George III, provided that no insurance shall be made "on the life or lives of any person or persons, or any other event or events whatever, wherein the person or persons for whose use, benefit, or on whose account such policy or policies shall be made, shall have any interest in the event or events or wagers."

An insurable interest which would entitle the insured to payment for his loss, as defined by the courts, exists when one is so situated as to have a pecuniary interest in the destruction of the insured property, or that its destruction will cause him some other liability. Therefore, if a person who is not a party to the contract has a pecuniary interest in the property, but stood in such relation to it that he had legal grounds for expecting some benefit from its continued existence, or loss would cause him some other liability, he has put it, his contract would be enforceable at law, whereas a gambler's interest would not be recognized.

Betting in New York may be under the law, but the possibilities of insurance seem never to have been thoroughly tested.—Washington Post.

## OLD AGE PENSION BILL.

The English nation has so long seen the old age pension act coming that its practical approval by the house of lords will cause little or no surprise. The bill, which is now assented to by the house of commons, in concurrence with the house of commons, establishes a noncontributory pension scheme and provides for a pension of five shillings (1.20) a week for men and women who are 70 years of age or over and who are not in receipt of an income of over 10 shillings a week from other sources. Those already chargeable to the poor laws are exempted from the act.

With these eliminations it is estimated that 572,000 people will receive pensions which are to be payable at the inland revenue offices scattered throughout the country. The first year it is estimated by treasury officials that the new law will cost the government 7,500,000 pounds sterling (approximately \$37,500,000).

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